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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/620,617 Confirmation No. : 9661
First Named Inventor : Wouter IJDO
Filed : July 17, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1755
Examiner : M A MARCHESCHI
Docket No. : 080395.52547C1
Customer No. : 23911
Title : Viscosity Stable Smectite Clay Slurries

AFTER-FINAL REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed on or after
September 24, 2004.

Petition for Extension of Time begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which
begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

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Petition for Extension of Time:

Applicant hereby requests that the period to take action in the above-captioned application be extended by two months pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a).

A check in the amount of \$450 is submitted herewith in payment of the required extension fee. This amount is believed to be correct, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 080395.51547C1).